

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

County commissioners want to find out how much it would cost to build their own building to house the ambulances, handibuses and emergency management.

Jeff Tidyman of Engineering International in McCook was charged with developing bid-ready plans and specifications for the building at the commissioners' Sept. 8 meeting.

The proposed building would house the two county ambulances in Imperial, two handibuses and county emergency vehicles.

In addition, the plans call for several offices, including one for emergency manager Paul Kunnemann, a large meeting room, rest rooms, shower and small kitchen.

The proposed location for the building is the northeast corner of the county shop property located at 13th and Grant Streets.

The county is presently housing the two Imperial ambulances in the back of the Imperial fire barn.

With the addition of several new trucks, the firemen are considering the construction of a new barn on the site of the old grade school property.

They had asked the county to consider joining them and the city in building a new facility to house the combined units. Cost estimates for that facility were projected at more than \$1 million.

At a joint meeting of city and county officials in late April, the commissioners indicated they were not interested in participating in the joint project.

Commissioners included approximately \$180,000 in the new budget should they decide to construct their own facility.

Commissioner Chair Don Weiss estimated Tuesday it will be 30-60 days before Tidyman returns with plans and bid specifications.

At that point, the commissioners would have to vote whether or not to seek bids for the facility.